

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1470V

UNPUBLISHED

JEFFREY PRITCHETT,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 1, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

Diana Lynn Stadelnikas, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Sarasota, FL, for petitioner.

Lara Ann Englund, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On June 24, 2020, Jeffrey Pritchett filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of an influenza vaccination. Petition at 1-2. Petitioner further alleges that the vaccination was administered within the United States, that he has suffered from the adverse effects of his injury for more than six months, and that there has been no previous award or settlement for Petitioner’s vaccine-related injuries. Petition at 2. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 26, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On January 29, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$416,730.80

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

(comprised of \$142,500.00 for pain and suffering; \$3,384.76 for past unreimbursable expenses; and \$270,846.04 for past and future lost wages). Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, I **award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$416,730.80 (comprised of \$142,500.00 for pain and suffering; \$3,384.76 for past unreimbursable expenses; and \$270,846.04 for past and future lost wages) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

JEFFREY PRITCHETT,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) No. 19-1470V
) Chief Special Master Brian Corcoran
SECRETARY OF)
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,)
)
Respondent.)
)

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On June 24, 2020, respondent filed a **Vaccine Rule 4(c)** report concluding that petitioner suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome within the Table timeframe following an influenza vaccination, which was compensable under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, **42 U.S.C. §§300aa-10** to -34. Accordingly, on June 26, 2020, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement.

I. Items of Compensation

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$142,500.00 for pain and suffering, \$3,384.76 for past, unreimbursable medical expenses, and \$270,846.04 for past and future lost wages. These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)**. Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$416,730.80** in the form of a check payable to petitioner.¹ This lump sum payment represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under **42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)**. Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/ LARA A. ENGLUND
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Dated: January 29, 2021

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.